

The Times-Dispatch

Business Office: 212 E. Main Street.
 South Richmond: 1111 E. Main Street.
 Petersburg Bureau: 100 N. York Street.
 Lynchburg Bureau: 111 N. Main Street.

By Mail: One Six Three One
 Year: \$10.00
 Daily with Sunday: \$1.00
 Daily without Sunday: \$1.00
 Sunday edition only: \$1.00
 Weekly (Wednesday): \$1.00

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service:
 One Week: \$1.00
 Daily with Sunday: \$1.00
 Daily without Sunday: \$1.00
 Sunday only: \$1.00

Entered January 21, 1912, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1912

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

That there should be some misunderstanding of the method used for beginning the new policy of furnishing free text-books to the school children of Richmond was perhaps inevitable. Yet the basis of the new plan is perfectly clear. The endeavor is to make the \$10,000 appropriated for this purpose go as far as possible the first year. This demands that many of the books previously used be exchanged for new texts. To the child who has completed one grade the old books are practically useless. But to his successor they are of their original value. Therefore the pupil is saving money by exchanging his old texts for new. In cases where the old books have been lost or destroyed, the parents must buy new texts in their places. All books will be furnished to the children entering the first grade of the primary. At the end of the session they will be returned to the School Board, whose property they are, and a new set lent to the pupil. In other words, the texts are to be used for the term just as are the seats and furnishings of the schools. They will then be passed on to the next generation needing them. When the system is firmly established each year only those books will have to be bought that are needed to replace worn out or disused volumes.

That the plan is very advantageous has been shown by an increased enrollment, due, according to the superintendent, largely to the fact that students kept from attending school by inability to purchase the texts can now use them free. There is absolutely no stigma attaching to the free school book. They merely represent the ideal of using taxes for the support of the schools in a new way. In so far as every individual contributes to the wealth of the city, he is thereby paying for whatever is returned to his children in service.

The value to the community of each educated and efficient boy or girl produced by the public schools amply justifies any expenditure the community may make upon such preparation for life. Richmond is lending its present wealth with the certainty of a tenfold return in a better class of citizens.

WILSON ON MONOPOLIES.

Opposition to the Roosevelt idea of legalized and government-controlled monopoly has so far been the most prominent text taken by Governor Wilson. The stock reply to his arguments against such a policy as to business combinations has been that the logic of his position would force him to propose the abandonment of the Interstate Commerce Commission as well as the various several State railroad and public service commissions, since they are no more than governmental agencies for the regulation of monopolies permitted by law.

The Democratic nominee is not driven into any such corner. He differentiates between natural and artificial monopolies. He is not opposed to monopolies which are inherently necessary; what he is opposed to is the establishment and the maintenance of monopolies that are not inevitable and which would not exist if competition were permitted. To parallel a railroad or to build a competing public service system in a municipality already adequately served is unquestionably an economic waste, and the recognition and protection of such natural monopolies is demanded by common sense. The choice in such a case is between regulated monopoly and unregulated monopoly. Governor Wilson is for regulation, of course; his conduct in reference to the public utilities of New Jersey is evidence that he is in earnest about it. But, as the Evening Post puts it, "instead of jumping to the conclusion that everything that can be monopolized, by hook or crook, must be monopolized, he says that the various departments of production and exchange shall be kept open to independent enterprise, just as far as the prevention of unfair practices for the throttling of competition can keep them open."

The Democratic nominee in his Columbus speech yesterday declared that the chief cause of the present high prices is, because "as a matter of fact the chief cause is the manipulation of prices by the trusts." The Republicans, regular and progressive, are tender toward the trusts, knowing that monopoly is practiced by the trusts and is their object, but when the suggestion is made that monopoly may be destroyed, the Republicans cry out in horror that monopoly has come to stay, that business must be big and that monopolies must control the markets.

The railroads, Governor Wilson replies, are admittedly by nature monopolistic. "Every economist knows the familiar proof that competition is not often feasible, and is sometimes financially wasteful in the field of trans-

portation when railways have been developed along the shortest and most serviceable lines; but they also know that this class of 'natural monopolies' is comparatively small and that there is no analogy between the regulation of railways and the regulation of artificial monopoly created by deliberate combination and agreement, based not upon efficiency, but upon control of a particular product and particular markets."

The Democratic party realizes that business in our day must be done on a large scale, but it knows that "there is a size which is natural and a size which is unnatural in business." The monopoly of unnatural size is built upon certain forms of agreements, certain kinds of practices, certain understandings with regard to control which are not often aimed at either efficiency or economy. The Democratic party holds that prosperity is not dependent upon monopoly, and that maintenance of just competition and free-dom of opportunity are essential. The Democratic party would not condone the evil in unnatural monopoly, but excuse it. The Democratic policy would be one of wholesome constructiveness, restoring rightful competition instead of yoking the government with the trusts in questionable control of monopoly.

FEMININE RAIMENT.

One woman there is who describes her sex's universal and illimitable love of fine, luxurious and costly raiment. Miss Ida M. Tarbell declares that the complication of woman's life by the domination of clothes is "extremely serious." All too often her clothes are a woman's vocation rather than her avocation. If home duties interfere with your clothes, cut out your home duties, the feminine slogan seems to be sometimes. Man has conquered his passion for ornament. Man clothes himself, but woman arrays herself. Miss Tarbell recognizes that woman is often possessed of clothes mania.

Napoleon allowed his pleasure-loving Empress, Josephine, \$90,000 a year for her toilet, but Josephine was like a great many other women—she couldn't stay within bounds, for she averaged \$220,000 a year for her adornment. That would seem a record figure, but Miss Tarbell asserts that last summer one woman in American society bought in Europe a half-dozen night gowns, for which she paid \$1,000 each. Miss Tarbell adds:

"There are women who will start on a journey with 100 or 150 pairs of shoes. There are others who bring back from Europe forty or fifty new gowns for a season. What is one thing of a bill for \$500 for stockings in one season, of \$20,000 for a season's worth of coats and hats from one shop and as much more in the aggregate for the same articles in the same period from other shops?"

One woman pays \$30,000 in duties annually on the jewelry and clothing she brings back from Europe. That duty represents an outlay of about \$100,000. It included more than \$1,200 for hats and more than \$3,000 for other items.

But that is none of any man's business, we are told. All this, it is declared, does not concern the men:

"Theirs not to make reply
 Theirs not to reason why,
 Theirs but to pay the bills."

Patently he must plod along ever willing to surrender his savings for a rag, a whalebone and a bank of some dead Chinaman's hair.

A HARD STRUGGLE.

It has long been pointed out by sociologists that the greater part of the social evil of the present day arises from the pressure of economic necessity, or, in other words, is caused by the low wages and hard conditions of employment imposed by our industrial and commercial system upon women and girls who are struggling to support themselves or others dependent upon them. The same interpretation of existing conditions in New York City was given by Mayor Gaynor last Tuesday in the course of his testimony before the aldermanic investigators of police affairs. When asked what he had done to stop the social evil, Mayor Gaynor replied that the social evil could not be effectually checked by police activity, but "by educating our merchants and employers to pay young girls and women living wages."

The statistics which are available seem to bear out Mayor Gaynor's assertion. A recent and complete investigation by the Federal Bureau of Labor of twelve of the largest department stores in New York, having in the aggregate 12,729 women employees, showed that twenty-eight per cent earned less than \$5 each week. The average weekly rate of pay was only \$7.52. A further compilation of returns received from 2,000 women employees of department and retail stores, mills and factories disclosed even more interesting information. The average age of these women workers was between twenty and twenty-one years, their experience as wage-earners averaged over three years, and their average weekly earnings were only \$11.12. For this sum they worked fifty-eight hours each week or almost ten hours each day. In addition they gave their services for ten evenings during the holiday season.

The great majority of the department store employees are girls with an average of nineteen years. They usually are the sole or partial support of their families. The average amount paid as board or as a family contribution by these girls was ascertained by the Bureau of Labor to be \$5.29. A considerable proportion of the women store employees, however, are older and are "drift" or, in other words, are not living at home. They pay on an average \$3.54 each week for food, shelter and laundry. One out of every five of these homeless women also make an average weekly

contribution of \$2.44 to needy relatives. When it is remembered that the average weekly wage is about \$6, it is evident that women and girl wage-earners in this class of establishments in New York are on a bare subsistence level, and have little, if any, margin for amusement, recreation, sickness, or for the purpose of carrying them over a period of curtailment in employment. These are the conditions which Mayor Gaynor considers largely responsible for the social evil in New York.

What is the remedy? Obviously a revision of the tariff and the elimination of other forms of special privilege will add to the purchasing power of this class of wage-earners, and to that extent place them farther above their present scant means of subsistence. But as desirable as a tariff revision is, in this connection it would be merely superficial treatment. The fundamental cause is deeper. It lies in the competition which exists between manufacturing and mercantile establishments and centres, so far as the department stores are concerned on the "special sales" and "bargain days." Very few employers desire to pay low wages. They know that cheap employees in reality are not economical, and, furthermore, they do not wish to exploit human necessity and weakness. But if one employer pays high wages his competitors will not follow his lead. They will be able to produce commodities or sell them at a lower cost and thus destroy the business of the humanitarian merchant or manufacturer. In those forms of business and industrial enterprise employing large masses of unskilled persons, the remedy suggested by a certain class of reformers consists in State interference and the prescribing and enforcing upon all employers of certain rates of payment to their employees. Such a method of procedure has met with success abroad by the creation of boards or commissions composed of prominent and impartial persons who, after careful investigation and study, formulate minimum rates of payment to wage-earners in clothing factories, stores, mines and other branches of business activity.

This plan, it is argued by its advocates, could be adopted in New York and in other cities of this country in a conservative form adapted to our conditions. The effect upon customers would be imperceptible, it is urged, and even if strongly felt, such a plan of social relief would undoubtedly meet with their full approval.

THE COST OF DISEASE.

If there be one thing that modern science has demonstrated it is the staggering cost of vice, disease and drunkenness. The whole tenor of the present meeting of the American Public Health Association in Washington is an endeavor to present the economic waste due to inefficient bodily machinery. The remedy unanimously advocated is not taking care of the disease at enormous expense, but prevention with a comparatively small outlay. One lecturer stated that the United States pays \$3,000,000,000 annually as the cost of vice in all forms.

Dr. Hurty, of Indiana, who is one of the foremost health authorities in the world, declared that there is no money in ill health or sickness except for the doctor, druggist and undertaker, and that they frequently spend all they make from sickness in paying for bills developed in their own bodies through neglect. He continued: "Right in front of us and always present stands an archangel fully accredited, who is ready to teach us how to drive ill health, disease, imbecility, insanity, crime and pauperism from the earth. His name is Hygiene." The decrease in drunkenness is a striking example of how the demand for physical efficiency brings untold benefits. More than any crusade on moral grounds, or emotional temperance movements, has the demand by railroads, big corporations and all employers for service unhampered by intoxication reduced the inefficiency due to the overindulgence in intoxicants. The same lesson can be drawn from the cost of vice. It saps the physical and moral strength and takes heavy toll each year from the very flower of the country's manhood. It results in weakened bodies and wills. The weakness and disease directly traceable to vice is coming to be recognized as an economic loss. The time is not far off when employers will require cleanliness of life from their workmen as they now require sobriety.

Morals are not matters of dollars and cents, but it would be wise for Richmond to consider how much is spent here every year in payment for the vice bill. One lesson from the recent revelations of immoral conditions here should be the necessity for preventive hygiene as a cure for such social plagues. It is time for civilization to realize that social disease can only be fought by the same preventive measures that are slowly cutting down the annual cost of disease.

When it comes to a chorus, give us the John Marshall High School one every time.

John L. Sullivan is for the Colonel. He is the very man to help "ring over the ropes" the thieves who stole the nomination.

Who was William B. McKinley, anyway? "Governor Mann issued a hay proclamation some time ago, attracting much attention, and now he issues a seed-corn proclamation. Soon some one will be writing the Governor down as a hay-and-seed Governor," the Blackstone Courier says.

How about that dollar you were going to send to the Wilson campaign fund?

On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

According to Uncle Abner.

When a campaign orator wants to give time for applause he stops and takes a drink of water, however painful it may be.

Almost everybody likes red hair, on somebody else.

Where is the old-fashioned girl who used to make red flannel penwipers for birthday presents?

Since Hank Purdy has been in love with the grass wader down by the cross-roads, he has lost four fingers at the sawmill. His mind hasn't been on his work.

A steam laundry kin do more tricks with a 50-cent shirt in five minutes than a monkey can with a coconaut.

As times goes by one is impressed with the fact that wooden socks for summer wear are not quite so popular as they were back in the sixties.

One thing I never heard a woman brag about is her age.

If every fellow would get to bed at 9 o'clock at night and get up at 5 o'clock in the morning there wouldn't be so many sanitariums doing business in the country.

Anne Frisby has got a new visible typewriter, but she is never visible when Anne's wife calls.

Very few poets get arrested for speeding their automobiles.

There are more varieties of progressives in this country than of pickles.

Another who has disappeared is the old fellow who used to go into the hardware store and sharpen his false teeth on a grindstone.

That's What They All Say.

"My husband and I never have a cross word."

"Gee, Bill, your straw hat is a classic. I had one like it nine years ago."

"My wife never has to ask me for money."

"When I move to New York I want you to come and see me. I'm going to live there when I get rich."

"We live in the queerest neighborhood you ever saw. It's simply splendid. I'd like to sell you my place. It's just what you want."

Natural Gas.

Those campaign speeches "that we hear."

Along about this time of year are surely music to the ear: We simply cannot help but cheer the talker when he's through. He makes us think that black is white.

Down at the town hall every night he demonstrates that wrong is right. We join him in his dreamy flight into the azure blue.

Before we fully realized, He has us finely hypnotized. And lulled to sleep and mesmerized. And put to rights and catechized. He's nailed us to a state mast. He's got us in a state of mind. Where we are deaf and dumb and blind.

To argument not of his kind. To stick to him we are all signed—To stick until the last.

Another fellow comes along. Next night and sings another song. He shows us where his rival's wrong. And how we simply can't belong unless we change our views. He's got the other skinned a mile. He's keener than a rat-tail file. Before he's through we simply pile into his wagon in great style. And gladly spread the news.

We listen to a dozen more. Who upset all we've heard before. We analyze 'em to the core. Down at the corner grocery store. When we are at our ease.

They may as well not have begun. They're not convinced, and one, O' Dabney, had evidently not found his shoes yet, for he never did come out on the ground. He can do more boasting than any three men, but not in his bare feet.

There were three representative committees at the station, one from the Salisbury Industrial Club, one from the merchants' association and one from the city. Mayor Ainslie followed Mr. Carrington. Mayor Ainslie has gray hair, but is a young man. He said the Richmond Boosters did not want to take away with them any trade which belonged to Spartanburg, but would be glad to have Spartanburg people go to Richmond for anything which they were unable to obtain at home. He said his party represented a capital of \$25,000 and that they sold everything from cakes to credit.

Disbursements of advertising souvenirs and reading matter were distributed. One of the souvenirs which attracted much attention was a paper butterfly attached to a burr, by means of which it could be made to stick to the clothing of anybody who was passing it at him—Spartanburg Herald.

The militant messengers of Richmond's commercial supremacy marched upon the city last night to the number of more than 100. The local strength of that is bearing the palatial special that is bearing the Boosters about the Carolinas arrived at 7:15 from Gastonia and points to the south, being met there by a cheering committee of about fifteen Charlestonians, who paved the way to a cordial reception which was to follow upon their arrival here.

At the Southern station a larger complement of Charleston citizens extended greetings and manifested that interest in the coming of the merchants from the city to the James that is peculiar to Charleston.

After a tedious trip through South Carolina the party pulled into Gastonia at 6 o'clock. Hundreds of citizens were gathered at the depot there to meet the merchants, and while the train was on a siding the Boosters' band emerged from the train, followed by many of the merchants. The march was made to Gastonia's square, where Mayor Ainslie was uplifted to introduce the party to the people of the city. Mayor Ainslie hurriedly explained the purposes of the party, an appreciation of the fact that Gastonia people were showing in the excursion. He congratulated himself and the distinguished host for which he was spokesman that the trip and brought them back into the Old North State. Mayor Ainslie was given a cordial reception by the citizens of Gastonia.

Arriving in Charlotte, the visitors marched up West Trade Street to the square, turning there down South Tryon to Fourth. Steps were then retraced to the Selwyn Hotel, where the party rested for a little while, preparatory to the 8:30 meeting.

The auditorium of the Selwyn was resonant at the hour with the throngs of Richmond's resources. Representative Charlotte men greeted the delegates with enthusiasm and marked cordiality. It was an hour of fine fellow-

ship, when the glories of Charlotte were echoed through inspiring speeches and the virtues of Richmond reverberated through the corridors of the hotel. Clarence Kuester presided at the meeting with his accustomed grace and informality. He introduced Mayor C. A. Bland, who for the city opened the gateways of Charlotte to the visitors. Mayor Bland was distinctly happy in his remarks, tracing the development of Richmond and the wealth of its history and traditions, as well as in material accounts. Following him came Mayor Ainslie, who was introduced as having been at the head of the municipal government of his city for about ten days.

Mr. Dabney combined oratory, with philosophy and common sense with such delicacy and such potency that his address would have befitted an occasion in which sentiment played a greater role than pure business spirit. He eulogized the power that is behind the trade excursions, being sent out by Richmond, declaring that it was a spirit in which the entire people of the city of Richmond participated.

This is the second annual coming of the Boosters of Richmond to Charlotte. The scheme was originated last year, when a party of about 100, representing the principal interests of that city, gathered on a special that bore them through various parts of the two Carolinas. For the most part North Carolina was invaded at that time, but the itinerary this year took the party into the chief centres of South Carolina.

Practically all the interests of Richmond are wrapped up in the excursion, which was designed and is being carried out to proclaim the wealth of the advantages of that city to the tradesmen of the Carolinas. Literature explaining the advantages of Richmond as a central point for making purchases was mingled in distribution with variegated samples of goods, scattered as the train flew along to the four winds of the heavens—Charlotte Observer.

Owing to the delay of more than an hour and a half in the scheduled arrival of the "Richmond Boosters" yesterday afternoon, who should have reached here at 4:30 o'clock, but instead did not arrive till 6 o'clock, the oration which Goldsboro had prepared to give them was entirely demoralized, both on account of the great delay in arrival and then when the train did get here, instead of delivering the Boosters at the union station, where the Mayor and City Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts with their matchless drum corps were waiting, to receive them, they were detained at the Y. near the northern end of East and West Centre Street and headed by their own superb band they marched the entire length of that street as far as Walnut, and thence to the union station, where they were met by the Boy Scout Brigade and drum corps, Mayor Higgins, Mr. George A. Norwood, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Secretary Sherman, of the chamber, and a large delegation of representatives business men; but owing to the lateness of the hour and the fact that the schedule for other towns was already woefully delayed, the visitors did not tarry.

They were a fine body of representative business men of Richmond, and their parade of our thoroughfares, as above, was both spectacular and enjoyable.—Goldsboro Argus.

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After various evolutions in the square, the crowd gathered around the Morgan monument, where brief speeches were made. John Wood, secretary of the Spartanburg Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the visitors to the city in his own felicitous style, and expressed regret that their stay was to be so brief.

T. M. Carrington, president of the Chamber of Commerce, made a few remarks congratulating South Carolina on the growth of its textile industry, which, he predicted, would soon outclass New England.

Mayor George Ainslie, the recently elected chief magistrate of Richmond, followed Mr. Carrington. Mayor Ainslie has gray hair, but is a young man. He said the Richmond Boosters did not want to take away with them any trade which belonged to Spartanburg, but would be glad to have Spartanburg people go to Richmond for anything which they were unable to obtain at home. He said his party represented a capital of \$25,000 and that they sold everything from cakes to credit.

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This is the second annual coming of the Boosters of Richmond to Charlotte. The scheme was originated last year, when a party of about 100, representing the principal interests of that city, gathered on a special that bore them through various parts of the two Carolinas. For the most part North Carolina was invaded at that time, but the itinerary this year took the party into the chief centres of South Carolina.

Practically all the interests of Richmond are wrapped up in the excursion, which was designed and is being carried out to proclaim the wealth of the advantages of that city to the tradesmen of the Carolinas. Literature explaining the advantages of Richmond as a central point for making purchases was mingled in distribution with variegated samples of goods, scattered as the train flew along to the four winds of the heavens—Charlotte Observer.

Owing to the delay of more than an hour and a half in the scheduled arrival of the "Richmond Boosters" yesterday afternoon, who should have reached here at 4:30 o'clock, but instead did not arrive till 6 o'clock, the oration which Goldsboro had prepared to give them was entirely demoralized, both on account of the great delay in arrival and then when the train did get here, instead of delivering the Boosters at the union station, where the Mayor and City Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts with their matchless drum corps were waiting, to receive them, they were detained at the Y. near the northern end of East and West Centre Street and headed by their own superb band they marched the entire length of that street as far as Walnut, and thence to the union station, where they were met by the Boy Scout Brigade and drum corps, Mayor Higgins, Mr. George A. Norwood, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Secretary Sherman, of the chamber, and a large delegation of representatives business men; but owing to the lateness of the hour and the fact that the schedule for other towns was already woefully delayed, the visitors did not tarry.